



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*  
John Hoeven  
*Governor*

**PROCLAMATION**  
**NORTH DAKOTA DROUGHT DISASTER**  
**MARCH 10, 2005, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**WHEREAS**, forecasts by the National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Drought Mitigation Center, and initial assessment reports from state, tribal and local emergency management, agricultural, appointed and elected officials, have identified abnormally dry to severe drought conditions in the Upper Missouri River Basin and other areas of North Dakota that are contributing to low levels in Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe; and

**WHEREAS**, fire conditions will be variable on a day-to-day basis for the remainder of this early fire season, making it incumbent upon all land users, private and public, to pay attention to daily weather conditions and fire danger warnings, and ensure fire safety precautions are taken; and

**WHEREAS**, these conditions have caused and will continue to cause fire emergencies and community and rural water supply shortages in the state, especially across western North Dakota, particularly along the Missouri River system; and

**WHEREAS**, topsoil and subsoil moisture supplies continue to decline; and

**WHEREAS**, low levels in Lake Sakakawea will result in a loss of cold water habitat necessary for sustaining the forage fish that serve as the food base for more game fish; and

**WHEREAS**, the losses have posed and will continue to pose direct economic hardships to both livestock and grain producers in the areas directly affected by the drought; and

**WHEREAS**, financial losses to the recreation industry, water users and other business and private losses will also constitute an economic hardship throughout the entire state; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim a drought disaster and rural fire emergency in North Dakota to include the Upper Missouri River Basin and other areas of North Dakota. Pursuant to the provisions of the North Dakota Disaster Act of 1985, as amended (Chapter 37.17.1, North Dakota Century Code),

which include procedures for implementation of drought mitigation measures as contained in the State Emergency Operations Plan, this proclamation, and the executive orders or regulations that may be issued to implement this proclamation to mitigate losses resulting from the continuation of this drought disaster, shall have the force and effect of law.

/s/  
John Hoeven  
Governor

Attest:

/s/  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State